



Missouri Secretary of State
State Library



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Missouri Secretary of State

Summer Library Program Supplemental Manual

A Resource for Missouri Librarians
to Pair with the
2025 CSLP Manual



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Acknowledgments

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Introduction

For summer 2025, libraries across the country will use the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) theme *Color Our World*, celebrating the power of art to transform, uplift, and connect. In 2021, CSLP member libraries across the country chose Art as the theme and, in 2022, selected Color Our World as the slogan for that theme. To help Missouri librarians prepare, the Missouri State Library led four Summer Library Program Workshops in Springfield, Columbia, Belton, and Union, hosted by Springfield-Greene Library District, Daniel Boone Regional Library, Cass County Public Library, and Scenic Regional Library respectively.

Each workshop provided attendees the opportunity to try out potential programming ideas as well as share their ideas about the *Color Our World* theme. They critically analyzed the presented programming ideas and provided feedback on implementing and modifying the programs. Additionally, attendees shared their previous programming, experiences, and new ideas with one another and the Missouri State Library. To better help all Missouri librarians prepare, the Missouri State Library compiled the ideas shared at the workshops as well as through our Idea Exchange survey into this Missouri-centric 2025 Summer Library Supplemental Manual.

Within this manual, the Table of Contents organizes the programs into types, age groups, and passive programming. Each activity in this manual outlines the audience, materials needed, directions, modification to make it your own provided by Missouri librarians, and resources and related books. We have three national days with ideas on how to celebrate as well as the responses from our survey organized by question.

All modification suggestions and survey responses shared in this manual are not an endorsement or recommendation by the Missouri State Library.

A sincere thank you to CLSP, IMLS, our host libraries, workshop attendees, survey contributors, and Missouri librarians. This wouldn't have been possible without you.

Happy Summer Library Program Planning!



Marble Painting

No paintbrushes are required for this painting; you simply need a tray, a paint-covered marble, and some tilting.

Audience – Children

Materials

- Shallow box or tray or box lid with sides (e.g. pizza box lid or paper ream lid)
- Paper cut to fit the tray or box
- Marbles
- Washable paint

Directions

1. Place a piece of paper in the tray.
2. Place a marble or marbles in paint colors of your choice. A fork works great for transferring from the paint to the tray.
3. Put the marble on top of the paper in the tray and start tilting the tray back and forth.
4. Add more marbles with different colors if you wish. Challenge your patrons to try to spell out words or create images simply by tilting the tray.



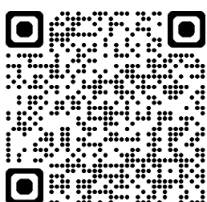
Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Thin the paint to help it spread more. ✚ Drizzle or drop the paint into the tray and then roll the marble through it. ✚ Tape a shape (e.g. heart, leaf) in the middle that's taller than the marble to create a silhouette or negative space. ✚ Use ping pong balls, ball pit balls, or sports balls for large motor skills. ✚ Roll toy cars through the paint or use a water gun or spray bottle. ✚ Make it a balance challenge or add boxes and straws to create a maze.
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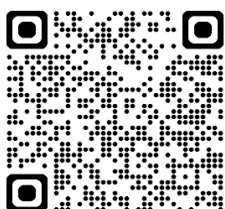
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lay down a map in the box for patrons to try to get their marble to certain locations on a map of a story. Avoid some mess by putting paper into plastic bags or wrap and squish the paint around or smack the paint with fly swatters. Place paper plates on a record player or lazy Susan, so as it spins, patrons can hold a marker down to create patterns. Put the paper and paint into a cylindrical container with a lid, and play music to dance and shake. Connect magnets with the paper between them and move the paint with the magnets.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a theme for patrons, such as a red and blue paint on white paper for the 4th of July or black paper with white paint for spiderwebs, or neon paint for a teen glow night. Play a round-robin style painting game where participants paint for one minute and trade the painting for the next person to add to. Once dry, turn the painting into a journal or book cover, card, bookmark, or wrapping paper; use them for paint collages; or turn them into a background or frame for photos. Piece the paintings together to make a mural for the library.

Resources for Marble Painting

[Little Blue and Little Yellow](#) by Leo Lionni



[Ish](#) by Peter H. Reynolds

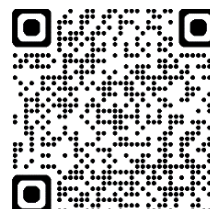


["Fun Marble Painting for Kids"](#)

YouTube video uploaded by DuckDuckGooseFun



[Sky Color](#) by Peter H. Reynolds



[Let's Look at Marbles](#) by Angela Royston



Ping Pong Ball Lantern

Brighten up a room by transforming a plain ping pong ball into a glowing lantern.

Audience – Children

Materials

- Ping pong ball
- Flameless candle
- Scissors
- Paint, markers, and/or washi tape



Directions

1. Carefully use scissors to poke a hole in the ping pong ball big enough to fit the flame of the candle inside. Depending on the age and skill level, consider pre-poking them.
2. Place the ping pong ball on the flameless candle.
3. Start decorating the ping pong ball with paint, markers, or washi tape.
4. Once dry, turn off the lights, turn on the candle, and see your masterpiece shine!

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

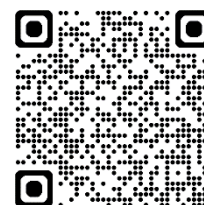
Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use warm or cool tea lights for different colors/vibes. ✚ Apply paint with cotton swabs. ✚ Use squares of tissue paper and clear glue. ✚ Draw squiggles with a black marker and fill in the empty spaces with color.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Add a string and turn it into an ornament. ✚ Create a snow globe, the head of a snowman, a hot air balloon, or a jack-o-lantern. ✚ Put faces on the lanterns to create puppets.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Host a fantasy night and turn lanterns into crystal balls or crystals to add to scepters or wands. ✚ Frame these as centerpieces for baby showers, bridal showers, or wedding receptions. ✚ Host a science night and turn the ping pong balls into the planets in our solar system. ✚ Use this activity as a part of a teen glow night.

Resources for Ping Pong Ball Lanterns

[*The Dot*](#) by Peter Reynolds



[*Ping-Pong Shabbat: The True Story of Champion Estee Ackerman*](#) by Ann D. Koffsky and Abigail Rajunov



Ink Marbled Coasters

Carving natural marble may be quite a feat, but create a marbled coaster with ink that could rival the classics and show your own flair.

Audience – Teens, adults

Materials

- Alcohol-based ink
- Square white tile
- Stick-on coaster corks
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Eye droppers and/or straws
- Heat gun or hair dryer
- Sealant
- Gloves



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Directions

1. Put on gloves and lay out supplies.
2. With an eye dropper or straw, put a few drops of ink on the white tile.
3. On top of the ink, put a few drops of isopropyl alcohol.
4. Using a heat gun or hair dryer, spread the ink out adding drops of the isopropyl alcohol to thin and spread the ink some more and create marbling.
5. Repeat Steps 2-4. You can add a new color or continue using the same color ink. If you add a new color, the two different inks will combine, creating a new color in the marbling.
6. Once the ink has dried completely, cover the coaster with a sealant.
7. Let sealant dry completely. Then, adhere the stick-on coaster corks to the tile's bottom.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

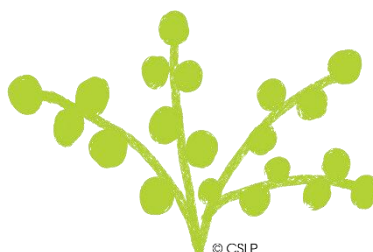
Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use sharpies with the isopropyl alcohol instead of alcohol-based ink. ✚ Get a similar effect with simpler material by using trays with shaving foam and food coloring or spraying tissue paper with water.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use silk scarves and sharpies and then spray with isopropyl alcohol. ✚ Make marbled bookmarks with cardstock. ✚ Paint mugs with fingernail polish and marble with the isopropyl alcohol.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Give families or groups a blank puzzle that they decorate and put together. ✚ Have families or groups work together to create a set of coasters.

Resources for Ink Marbled Coasters

[Inkblot](#) by Margaret Peot



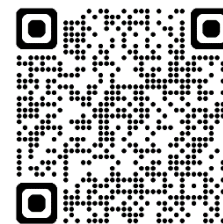
CSLP Manual – page 163



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[“Brea Reese Alcohol Ink Coasters Tutorial – Kendall Mills Artist”](#)

YouTube video uploaded by Brea Reese Art



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Bad Art Night

Art supplies gathering dust in your craft closet? Use them in an art competition where you must recreate a masterpiece with leftover art supplies and a limited amount of time. Vote on the best of these rushed jobs to determine a winner of Bad Art Night!

Audience – Tween, teens

Materials

- Leftover art supplies
 - Canvas, paper, drawing/painting supplies, craft supplies, etc.
- Digital or printed copies of famous art work



© CSLP

Directions

1. Display and present one or a few options of famous art works.
2. Once a painting has been decided, have patrons use the materials provided to try to recreate the art work in thirty minutes.
3. Present the completed works compared to the original.
4. Have a panel of judges or all attendees vote on the art work that most resembles the original.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

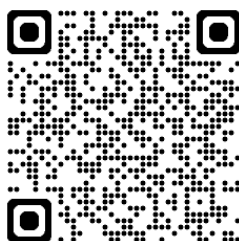
Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Patrons could choose a famous artwork on their own and the judges or attendees guess what they were trying to recreate. ✚ Have different themes (e.g., library building; bowl of fruit; portrait of a famous person, themselves, or the teen librarian).
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Instead of art, have a culinary competition, such as decorating cupcakes or cookies.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Provide a tacky trophy for the winner. ✚ Host an Art and Wine Night for adult patrons (make sure to check your local laws).

Resources for Bad Art Night

[“Bad Art Night 2.0”](#) by
Ontarian Librarian



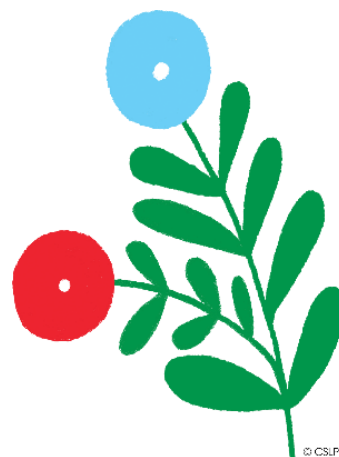
[What to Do When Mistakes
Make You Quake](#) by Clair A.B.
Freeland, Jacqueline B. Toner,
and Janet McDonnell



[The Book of Mistakes](#)
by Corinna Luyken



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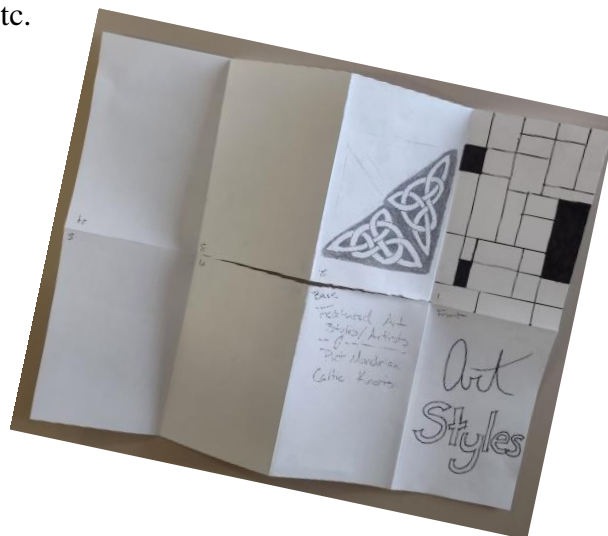
Zine

Short for magazine, make a miniature magazine without glue or staples. The folding and one single cut turn a single piece of paper into a front and back cover book with six pages. Your zine could become a mini story, poem, art collection, flyer, etc.

Audience – Teens

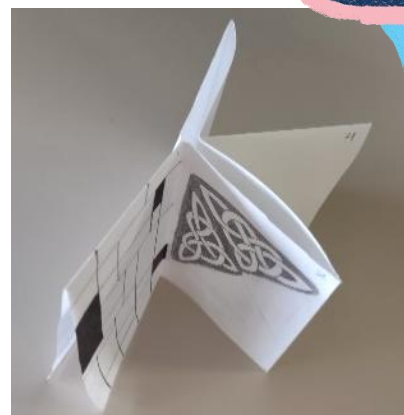
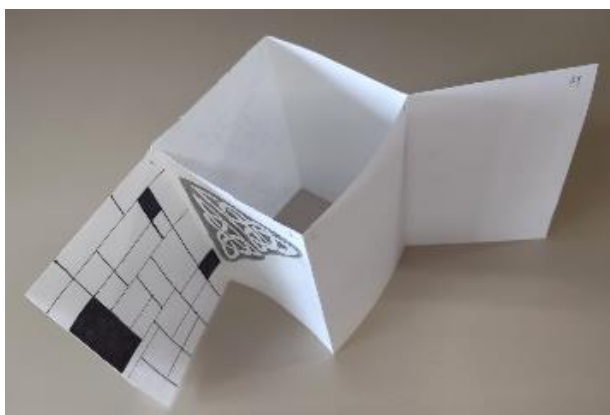
Materials

- Paper
- Scissors or crafting knife
- Pens, markers, colored pencils, and/or any other art supplies



Directions

1. Fold your paper in half so that the long edges meet, creasing the edges well.
2. Fold the paper in half short end to short end twice, creasing the edges well.
3. Unfold the paper. Make a slit in the middle of the paper along the inner two sections of the long fold.
4. Refold so that the long edges meet.
5. Push the uncut sides together to meet in the middle, and so you have a t-shape.
6. Push all the pages together to the right side to form a mini-book.
7. With a pencil, label the pages, so when unfolded, the order of pages is clear.
8. Draw, write, decorate, or create a story or [comic strip](#).
9. Refold following steps 5 -6.



Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

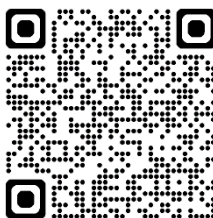
Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give guidance for the zine's contents, such as base it on a poem or story or have patrons create your OWN poem or story. For younger audiences or those lacking strong fine motor skills, you could pre-fold and pre-cut the paper and make the focus of this program the contents.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a comic strip on the pages of the zine.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your SLP flyers into zines. Have teens create a zine story book for their younger siblings or to give to younger patrons.

Resources for Zines

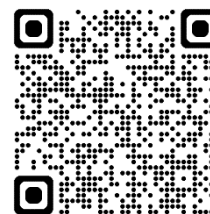
[“How to Make a Zine”](#)
by Emma Dajski



[January 2025 Central Youth Services Zine](#) by
Kansas City Public Library



[“How to fold a zine”](#) by
PLIX

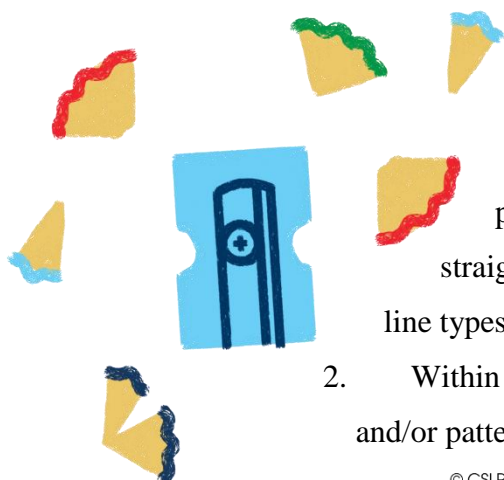
**Zentangle**

Make coloring pages more interesting by adding tangles in the sections. Or, make your own sections and tangle the page to design a masterpiece.

Audience – All (maybe a bit more teens, adults?)

Materials

- Paper with or without template
- Drawing materials (pencils, colored pencils, markers, pens, etc.)



Directions

1. If using a template, skip this step. If not using a template, create your Zentangle pattern by dividing your paper into sections of varying shapes and sizes. You can use straight lines or curved, diagonal, vertical, or a combination of line types.
2. Within your sections, create tangles (or repeating shapes, lines, and/or patterns). Each section can have the same tangle or different tangles.

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3. Add some shading to your tangles to add some depth and dimension.
4. Add some color to your Zentangle or keep it in only pencil or black and white.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the
Lighting

✚ You can use coloring pages to create Zentangle scenes or creatures. Or, you can add your own creatures and scenes to a blank piece of paper to then Zentangle.

Resources for Zentangles

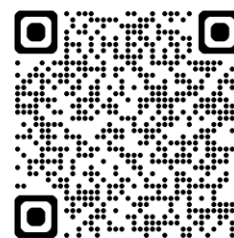
[Flow, Spin, Grow](#) by Patchen Barss and Todd Stewart

[“Zentangle for Kids, Teachers and Parents”](#) YouTube video uploaded by Kirsten Brunner

The [Official Zentangle](#) Website



[Zentangle Untangled](#) by Kass Hall



Comic Strips

Take a blank page or a template to create an original story and characters in a comic strip style or base it off your summer reading book. Each panel represents the next step in the story.

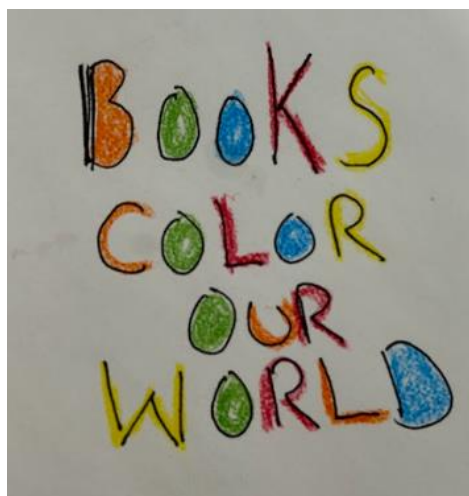
Audience – Children, teens

Materials

- Paper (either blank or with a template)
- Pencils and drawing materials
- Rulers

Directions

1. Give out the panel template or give time for patrons to create equal-sized panels on paper with rulers.
2. Decide on story ideas. Who is the protagonist of your story? Where is the story taking place? What will happen to your protagonist? How will they get out of their conflict?
 - a. Patrons could make their own original story or base it on a part of their summer reading book or on a story-time book.
3. Sketch out the characters and their speech/thought bubbles in basic shapes.
4. Add more details and some color to each panel.
5. Share or display your comic strips!



Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	✚ Instead of creating a comic strip, patrons could paint or draw a single scene from their summer reading book. You could then display these creations around the library near the section that book is housed.
Change the Scene	✚ Instead of making panels, create a zine with each page a different panel of your comic strip.
Add the Finishing Touches	✚ Bring in an author who makes comic strips or books, graphic novels, or manga to lead this program.

✧ CSLP Manual – page 123 ✧

Resources for Comic Strips

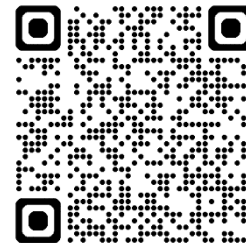
[Stan Lee's How to Draw Superheroes](#) by Stan Lee



[The Master Guided to Drawing Anime](#) by Christopher Hart



[“How to Create a Comic Strip in 6 Steps \(With Examples\)”](#) by Imagine Forest

**Black Out Poetry**

Take something old and give it new life! Create your own poem from an already-written work. Black out the rest or create art to cover what you don't use.

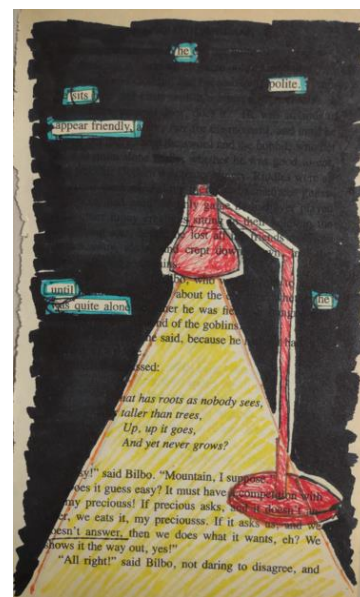
Audience – Teens, adults

Materials

- Pages from retired books, magazines, or newspapers or scanned and printed pages
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Permanent markers are traditional, but any drawing supplies work

Directions

1. Remove a page from a retired book or pick out a printed page from a book.
2. Using a pencil, circle some words that stand out to you.
3. Looking at the words you've circled, what words could connect? What type of mood, tone, or theme could those words combine to make?
4. In pencil, box words you for sure want to use. Start trying to connect those words with other words already on the page.



5. Once you've created your own poem, story, and/or meaning from that page, use a permanent marker to box off those words, so you don't accidentally draw over them.
6. With your drawing materials, start covering all the words you don't use with a pattern, something that connects with the poem, or simply in all one color. You just need to make sure not to cover over the words that make your poem.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use scissors or craft knife to cut out a pattern like a papel picado, making sure to leave your poem's words. ✚ Use fabric, tissue paper, or construction paper to cover unused words.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Make a collage poem by cutting words and letters out of retired books, magazines, newspapers, or from song lyrics. ✚ Write a poem in the shape of its topic, such as a poem about colors written in the shape of a rainbow. ✚ Arrange books so that the title on their spines create a poem.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ To make a passive program station, leave a pencil box with all the materials inside, so patrons can take a seat and make their own black-out poem at any time.

Resources for Black Out Poetry

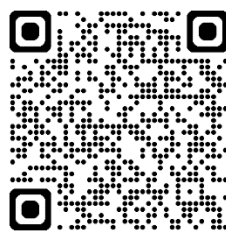
[“How To: Black Out Poetry”](#)

YouTube video uploaded by
Ariel Bissett



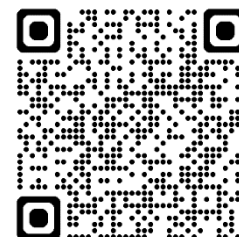
[“What is Blackout Poetry?”](#)

by Sceldalumni from Santa
Clara County Library District



[“How to Make Blackout Poetry - Art and Literacy Activity | Zart Art”](#)

YouTube video uploaded
by Zart



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Mosaic Art

Introduce some kid-friendly mosaic basics without needing a mosaic master's tool kit or skills by creating a mosaic tiled plate without a set design.

Audience – children

Materials

- Clear plastic plates with flat bottom
- Nontoxic clear glue
- Glass mosaic tiles
- Brushes



Directions

1. Pick out the mosaics. You can predetermine a pattern now or make it as you go.
2. Using the clear glue, you can paint the entire plate's flat surface or paint piece by piece.
3. Lay the pieces to create an image, pattern, or arrange them randomly for a unique design.
4. To ensure the pieces stick, you can paint the clear glue over the pieces as well.
5. Let dry completely.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use construction paper, tissue paper, or confetti for younger patrons. ✚ Cut craft foam into shapes to make mosaic tiles. ✚ Put the mosaic tiles on the bottom of the plate, so the surface is still useable. ✚ Use acrylic paint and clear glue or sealant. ✚ Put a pattern underneath the plate to follow, such as a tangram puzzle.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Hole punch the top and put a string through it to make a suncatcher. ✚ Apply contact paper around the edges to make a frame.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Partner with artfully aging and provide more advanced mosaic classes. ✚ Make firework patterns for the 4th of July

Resources for Mosaic Art

✧ CSLP Manual – page 167 ✧



Accordion Fan

Introduce patrons to the world of origami through mountain and valley folds that create a circular accordion fan that they can display or use on a hot sunny day.

Audience – children, tweens, teens

Materials

- Paper (watercolor paper needed for watercolor paint)
- Rubber cement or school glue
- Watercolor paint, markers, colored pencils, paint, etc.
- Hole puncher
- Yarn or string

Directions

1. Fold at least three pieces of paper into an accordion fold.
2. Pinch the center of your accordion-folded papers and fold in half. Glue the sides that meet together to create roughly a quarter to third of a circle.
3. Then, glue the papers together, so together they form a circle of accordion folds.
4. Decorate your accordion fan with glitter, paint, markers, etc.



Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

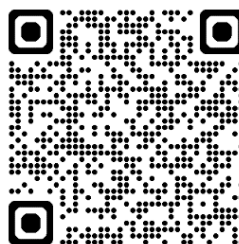
Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use coffee filters or retired books' pages instead of paper. ✚ Use black paper with neon paint. ✚ Hang your fan by punching a hole at the top. Put yarn or string through the hole and tie the string together. Make the string invisible with fishing line. ✚ Glue a popsicle stick between two folds to make a handle for a fan.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Make a butterfly instead by using paper (or coffee filters) and pipe cleaners. ✚ Turn the fan into a mask. ✚ Create an agamograph, or optical illusions that have different images on each side of the folds. ✚ Make a paper frisbee instead of a fan.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Make paper fireworks to hang up for the Fourth of July. ✚ Make ornaments or snowflakes with the fans. ✚ Make flowers to collect into a paper garden. ✚ Pre-fold the paper, and have kids decorate the fans for story time.

Resources for Accordion Fans

✧ [CSLP Manual – page 150](#) ✧



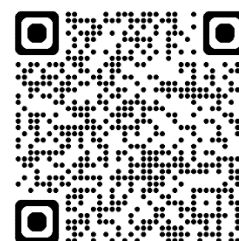
[“Paper Tip: How To Accordion Fold”](#) YouTube video uploaded by Helen Hiebert



[“Watercolor Paper Pinwheels - ARTBAR”](#) by Barbara Rucci



[Enola Holmes: The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan](#) by Nancy Springer



Missouri Secretary of State
State Library



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State

Warp and Weft Bookmark

Jumpstart patrons' interest in the fiber arts as well as reading by using cardboard and yarn to craft a beautiful and practical bookmark.

Audience – All

Materials

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Darning Needle (optional)



Directions

1. Take the cardboard and cut it to size. It should be an inch or two longer than the bookmark you want to make.
2. On each short end of the cardboard, cut slits about a $\frac{1}{4}$ in apart and about a $\frac{1}{2}$ in in length to create a loom.
3. Cut two pieces of yarn into yard-length pieces. You can use the same color or different color yarns.
4. Take one piece of yarn. Leave a tail, and then, put the yarn through the first slit on the bottom left. Take the yarn up to the top of the loom and wrap it around the first cardboard section.
5. Bring the yarn back down to the bottom and wrap around the second cardboard section. Continue zig zagging the yarn across one side of the loom.
6. Take the other yarn piece and tie it to the top of the first column of yarn.
7. Go over and under each column of yarn horizontally with the second yarn piece. Push the second yarn up to the top of the loom.
8. When you reach the other side, go over and under each column again, but go over the column you first went under and go under the columns you went over.



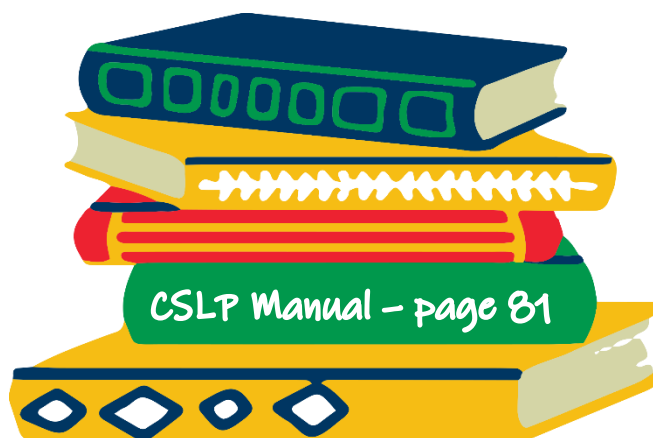
9. Repeat the over and under process until your bookmark is the size you want, making sure to leave a tail.
10. Tie off the second yarn's tail to the last column.
11. Remove the bookmark from the loom. Push the rows up while pulling the columns down, so the top of each column is flush with the first row.
12. Cut the bottom column's loops and tie the strings next to each other together.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

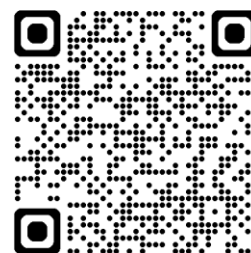
Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Instead of using a needle, tape the yarn to a popsicle stick, tape just the end of the yarn, put the string through a straw and tape it off. ✚ Use a precut shape as the loom (e.g. pumpkins, llama, snowman).
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use a big piece of precut construction paper and strips of paper to weave through to create a paper mat. ✚ Weave friendship bracelets.
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Have a passive loom for when kids finish a program or when participants might need something to do with their hands during an activity. ✚ Use as a Take and Make activity and send out different colors based on the seasons, holidays, and/or heritage months. ✚ Market as an accessible activity for adults with developmental disabilities. ✚ Make a frame for a Father's Day craft.

Resources for Warp and Weft Bookmark

[“Weave Your Own Bookmark”](#) YouTube video
uploaded by LACountyLibrary



[Rainbow Weaver](#) by Linda Elovitz Marshall and Elisa Chavarri



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Missouri Secretary of State



Geodes

Bring the sparkle by stealing nature's style and crafting a glittering geode with materials you already have.

Audience – children, tweens, teens

Materials

- Egg carton
- Coarse salt
- White glue
- Scissors
- Paint
- Brushes
- Popsicle sticks
- Glitter

Directions

1. Cut the egg carton cups out in irregular shapes.
2. Paint the entirety of each egg carton cup.
3. Use a small amount of any color paint(s) and dye the salt, stirring with the popsicle sticks. If you'd like, add glitter in as well.
4. Paint white glue on the inside of the egg carton cup and pour the salt on top to cover the inside.
5. Repeat step 4 until you like the look of your geode.
6. Pour glue along the edge and put a layer of a different color of dyed salt.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use the leftover ping pong balls from the lantern project. ✚ Use sharpies instead of paint.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use aluminum foil crumpled into a geode shape with glitter glue, salt, and paint. Use heat to dry. ✚ Make edible geodes with hard candy or waffle cones and edible glitter.

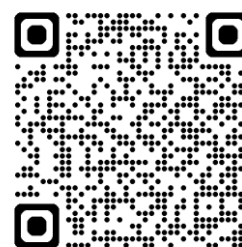
Add the Finishing Touches	<p>✚ Include this in a nature and/or science program about how geodes form in nature. Rope in the Parks Department or a geologist.</p> <p>✚ Frame it as a crystal creation for a fantasy RPG.</p>
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Resources for Geodes

“[Geodes for Kids](#)” by evahgh on Instructables (available in Spanish)



[Geology Lab for Kids: 52 Projects...](#) by Garrett Romaine



Beaded Garden Stakes

Missing some sparkle amidst your plants? Beads and wire can glitter in the sun as a garden stake.

Audience – tweens, teens, adults

Materials

- Glass beads of various shapes, sizes, and colors
- 16, 18, or 20 gauge wire (the larger the gauge number, the smaller the wire)
- Round nose pliers
- Wire cutters

Directions

1. Using round nose pliers, make a spiral with your wire to become the top of the stake.
2. Add beads to the wire to sit underneath the spiral.
3. Underneath the beads, cut a tail of wire so you have enough to twist into a design and have a portion that will be the stake in the ground.
4. Fold that section of wire into a third, twisting some of it around itself.
5. Then, make a few spirals or curls at the base of the beads with the wire.
6. Stick your new garden stake into a potted plant.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

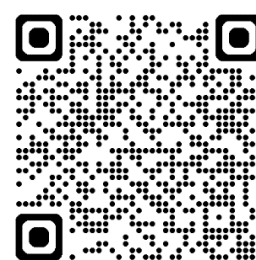
Adjust the Lighting	✚ Use straws or pipe cleaners and pony beads.
Change the Scene	✚ Create windchimes or suncatchers, dragonflies, bookmarks, hair pins, jewelry, wine glass charm, photo holder, or key chain charm. ✚ Use small beads and safety pins to make friendship pins for shoelaces. ✚ Make a letter charm with your initial.
Add the Finishing Touches	✚ Host a Mom and Me event for Mother's Day. ✚ Create wands for a fairytale themed event.

[“Make it Monday: Beaded Container Garden Stakes”](#)

YouTube video uploaded by
Cannon Falls Library

**Resources for Beaded Garden Stakes**

[Beaded: Bracelets, Earrings, Necklaces and More](#) by Judy Ann Sadler and Tracy Walker

**Craft and Chat**

Provide a dedicated time for patrons to work on their own craft projects while getting a chance to gather and converse with others who also enjoy crafting. Busy hands may just help conversations flow and help patrons find their people.

Audience – Adults

Materials

- Attendants bring their own materials.
- You could provide materials for any type of craft or coloring, such as sewing, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, origami, etc.



Directions

1. Simply have patrons gather to chat, and as they chat, they can bring in their own crafts or you may provide one for everyone or for those who don't have a project to bring in.
2. As patrons craft, you could provide conversation starters and questions. You could have all patrons have a guiding question or prompt to discuss all at once or leave the conversation starters around the room, so patrons can refer to it more independently as needed.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Use glue dots for crafts that require glue (and would be better for littles and folks with fine motor skill limitations). ✚ Create a small project and attach to a pencil or stick to hang on a wall or in a window. ✚ Put discussion questions on Jenga pieces and read a new question each time a piece is drawn. ✚ Pipe cleaners and pony beans can create various projects.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Make your own Christmas ornaments (ornaments from scrabble pieces).
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Have a different project each month. ✚ Offer a story time and crafts for families. ✚ Make it into a service project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hats and scarves that can be donated to agencies or left outside for those in need ○ Hats for premature infants ○ Lap blankets for long-term care facilities ○ Fleece blankets for the Humane Society ✚ Frame it as Senior Craft Day, Crafternoon, Chicks with Sticks, UFO (unfinished objects) group.



I-spy Bottle

Instead of searching through an image to spy items, put them into a bottle filled with rice and shake to discover the hidden objects.

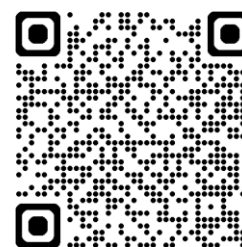
Audience – Children

Materials

- Clear plastic bottle
- Rice
- Various small items (such as a bell, thumb tack, paperclip, pompom, button, beads, googly eye, dime, etc.)
- Paper



[The I Spy Series](#) by Walker Wick and Jean Marzollo



Directions

1. Clean your clear plastic bottle and remove any labels.
2. As your bottle dries, make a list of all the items going in your I-Spy bottle.
3. Once dry, pour a layer of rice in the bottle.
4. Next, add a few of your items to the bottle.
5. Repeat steps 3-4 until the bottle is mostly full, leaving room to shake to find the items.
6. Glue the lid on, and shake your bottle to spy all the items on your list!

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dye the rice with food dye. Make sure to let the rice dry completely. • Instead of putting items in your bottle, use all one color of rice except for one grain of a different color.
Change the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an I-Spy box or aquarium near the checkout desk and switch out items every so often (except for that surprise, beloved item).
Add the Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make bottles that are filled with items that spark memories for a memory care program.

Random Color Generator Poem

Let fate decide the topic of your poem by randomly generating a color to wax poetic on.

Audience – teens, adults

Materials

- Random color generator website
- Paper
- Pencils

Directions

1. Go to a random color generator website and have it spit out a color for you.
2. Make the color name your poem's title.
3. Using only the color and its name, write a poem. Consider how to find or make that color, things that are that color, how often you see that color, a life experience or story that involves that color, etc. Consider the emotions or symbolism attached to that color, your opinion about that color, what makes that color unique from others, etc.

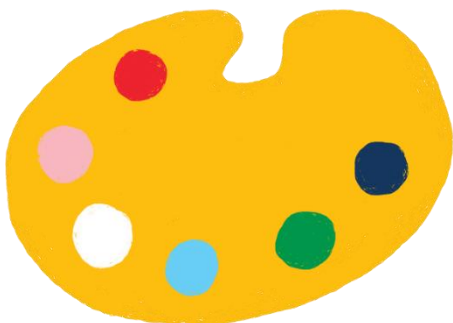
A Plutonian Purple

by Kathleen Schmidt

Dusk gathering on the horizon long after the sun has set
 A starless sky amidst towering evergreens
 Lyre music and grief lilting in the deep
 A purple verging on darkness
 A soft layer of dust
 On a decaying throne

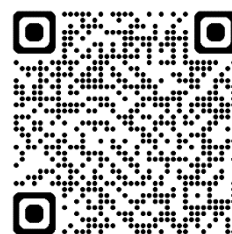
Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	✚ Instead of using a website and one of your community computers, create a jar with random colors to choose from. Print some color options off and fold the small slips of paper. Or, put the colors and names onto popsicle sticks. Some paint stores may allow you to take their “off-season” paint chips too!
Change the Scene	✚ Instead of a color, have participants listen to a song and write a poem based on how it made them feel.



Resources for Random Color Generator Poetry

[Random Color Generator](#)



Community Puzzle

Piece together your patrons' artwork to make a mural for your library that connects your community's creativity.

Audience – All

Materials

- Square pieces of paper, large puzzle pieces, etc.
- Tack or tape for hanging

Directions

1. Set the pieces for the puzzle out for a passive program or send out as a take and make kit.
2. Have patrons create one piece by coloring in the template or drawing their own images.
3. Add the pieces to the wall, combining to create one large community mural. You can add them as people finish to watch it build or all at once for a grand reveal.



Wolfner Library's Community Puzzle at the Missouri State Library completed as a take and make program.

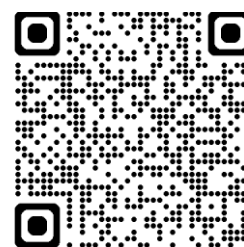
Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Adjust the Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Create a large rainbow in the library and have patrons write words that reflect each color in that section of the rainbow. Patrons could write in the section or on colorful pieces of paper to add to the rainbow. ✚ Buy a large white puzzle, trace around each piece on a large paper; number each piece, then set out with markers; add the completed pieces to the paper, leaving a section in the middle of the large piece of paper for your library name.
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Resources for Community Puzzles

[“Community Puzzle | Programming Librarian”](#) by Allison Puestow



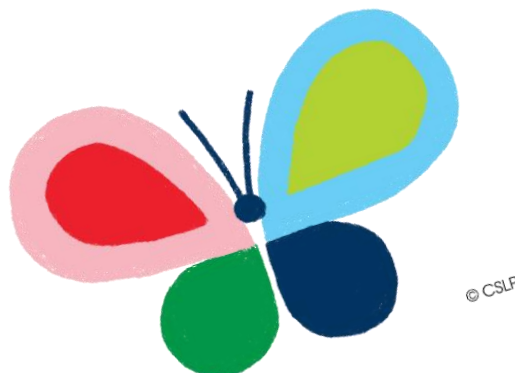
Community Ties

Although it may look like someone attempting to solve a case on your walls, each string will represent a community member and their thoughts.

Audience – All

Materials

- String
- Tacks
- Printed Papers



Directions

1. Put a tack in a wall or bulletin board and put a sign above it that says, “Start here.”
2. Create a set questions with a few options. They could be would you rather questions, yes/no questions, or any other question you can think of. For example, a question could be “What color should a math folder be?”
3. Place each question at the top in a horizontal line, leaving some space between.
4. Underneath the questions, provide a vertical set of options, each with a tack below them. For example, you could have the options red, blue, green, and yellow underneath the math folder question.
5. On the opposite side, place a tack with a sign that says, “End here.”
6. Provide string nearby, and as people walk by, they can grab a string, wrap it around the starting tack, and wrap their string around the tacks for their answer to each question.
7. At the end, you and patrons can see what the community thinks and how they connect.

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Change the Scene	✚ Print off a color map to hang in the library; give a clue and people put a pin in the color of their guess.
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Resources for Community Ties



National Donut Day (June 6)

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Celebrate with Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decorate your own donuts. Have a taste test contest. Libraries with a Charlie Cart could have a donut making session. Use an Air fryer with Pillsbury dough to make donuts. Make apple ring donuts. Use edible spray paint or edible glitter. Patrons could mix color into frosting to create different colors. Ask grocery stores for leftovers or “rejects.” Create take and make donut recipes to try at home.
Celebrate with Play and Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hang donuts from the ceiling; blindfold the participants as they try to eat the donuts. Play gameshow games (e.g., how many small chocolate donuts can you balance on your forehead). Make it a STEAM activity. Mix up orders; print off manipulatives to pair with a story. Use sprinkles on paper or cardboard. Create donuts out of Playdoh or clay. Mix saltwater dough and decorate by painting or coloring with markers/sharpies. Put tissue paper confetti in a bowl. A cardboard donut with glue on top can be dipped into the bowl. Create felt donuts to teach basic sewing skills. Draw your own decorated donut. Use a cutting machine to create paper bookmark donut; use markers or gel sprinkles to decorate Make Elf Donuts by decorating cheerios and make small paper boxes to put the donuts in.
Celebrate with Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with a local donut shop to issue a punch card where patrons receive free donut with so many books read. Host a Donuts with Dad event for Father’s Day.
Celebrate with Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arnie the Donut by Laurie Keller (read by Chris O’Dowd on Storyline Online) Dozens of Doughnuts by Carrie Finison and Brianne Farley Donut Feed the Squirrels by Mika Song The Hole Story of the Doughnut by Pat Miller and Vincent X. Kirsch

Nature Photography Day (June 15)

Or World Photography Day (August 19)

Make It Your Own (with Suggestions from Missouri Librarians)

Celebrate with Play and Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Find the sunrise and sunset times for your location to capture nature in the magical golden hour or the special blue hour. ✚ Find out more about how to take pictures during sunrise and sunset and how to take pictures of the Moon and its surroundings. ✚ Can do a weekly theme leading up to the day (e.g., each week has a different color for patrons to submit their photos of that color in nature). ✚ Use nature to dye cloth (e.g., red cabbage, yellow onion, black beans, walnuts). ✚ Create a leaf stamp or fish print art based on the gyotaku art form. ✚ Have a gardening program in association with this (e.g. what colors do you grow?). ✚ Create a collage from color-based photos submitted by patrons (e.g., take a close-up photo of something green, something yellow, etc. in nature then combine them into a larger collage). ✚ Create pressed flower jewelry. ✚ Take photos of yourself or your friends/family outside. ✚ Give disposable cameras to patrons to turn back in (sometimes used as a teen program). ✚ Have participants alter a photo that they took.
Celebrate with Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Take a hike with your family and friends and take in the nature around you, while capturing the scenes with your camera. ✚ Share your favorite outdoorsy picture on your library's social media. ✚ Partner with agencies (e.g. Department of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, or MU Extension). ✚ Use the XPLOR, Missouri Conservationist, or Missouri Life magazines as inspiration. ✚ Have a nature photography scavenger hunt in your community. ✚ Have a water color class where the subject is a photo. Each patron does their own; or everyone does the same; or a choice. ✚ Have an art show with sparkling grape juice.
Celebrate with Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry by J. Patrick Lewis



National Ice Cream Day (July 20)

Celebrate with Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Host a sundae bar social with a variety of flavors and toppings. ✚ Have an ice cream social story time. ✚ Make root beer floats. ✚ Make ice cream soup with food coloring. ✚ Make ice cream in a bag (table salt, evaporated milk) – MU extension might help with this. ✚ Make coffee can ice cream. ✚ Have a weird ice cream day (add weird flavors to vanilla ice cream). ✚ Host an ice cream flavor creation contest. ✚ Host an ice cream nostalgia time as an intergenerational activity along with an ice cream social. Ask patrons about what ice cream flavors they had growing up? What was their favorite and why? What types of cones are better? What has changed over the years?
Celebrate with Play and Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Practice dexterity with an ice cream scoop and small plastic balls. ✚ Have young children make felt board ice cream (cone and scoops). ✚ Make playdough ice cream. ✚ Freeze oobleck slime; as it melts, it changes consistency. ✚ Play with magnetic ice. ✚ Use the Melissa & Doug ice cream set. ✚ Make pompom ice cream. ✚ Make ice cream garland with yarn, pompom balls, and colored paper for the cone.
Celebrate with Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ If your local health department has a smoothie bike, partner with them to create a program. ✚ Partner with a local ice cream shop. ✚ Host an SLP kickoff where everyone gets an ice cream ticket from a local shop (note: libraries cannot use LSTA funds toward incentives). ✚ Have reading milestones where for so many books read, you get a free ice cream.
Celebrate with Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ <i>Gorilla loves Vanilla</i> by Chae Strathie ✚ Pete the Cat Screams for Ice Cream by James Dean and Kimberly Dean ✚ A Sundae with Everything on It by Kyle Scheele and Andy J. Pizza ✚ Should I Share my Ice Cream? by Mo Willems

Idea Exchange Questions and Responses

Missouri librarians were asked twelve questions about various summer library programming topics, and we've compiled their anonymous responses. If implementing some of these suggestions as part of an LSTA-funded Summer Library Program grant, make sure you are compliant with any grant award guidance.



All thoughts and ideas shared here are not an endorsement or recommendation by the Missouri State Library.

1. **Partnerships** – What free/low-cost local or statewide organizations do you partner with?

Education and Learning

- Schools
- Parents as Teachers
- MU extension (e.g., access to their kitchen for food programming – snacks that they can make on their own; simple freezer meals; one week strength training)
- Head Start
- First Chance for Children
- U. S. Marines Toys for Tots Literacy Program
- Local community colleges
- Boy Scouts (science experiments, lava lamps, boats that float)

Government Agencies

- Health Department (CPR training; babysitting class)
- Police Department and K9 unit
- Parks and Rec department (adulting 101 classes)
- State Parks (e.g., story walk about the lake)
- Fire Department (they can do story time!)

- Simulation in the building with a fake house and fake flames
- Department of Conservation
 - Fishing – they will bring supplies
 - Often adapt programming to the CSLP theme
 - Focus on nature photography
 - Will provide fishing poles to loan out; patrons can get their fishing license at the library
 - SNAKES
 - Will often design a program for you
 - Fish prints (gyotaku) – MO Dept of Conservation has rubber fi8sh that they can bring to recreate traditional Japanese art
- Health and Senior Services (e.g., what do you do if you have a fall?)
- Post office (talk about stamps, letters, in the past how they could be mailed with just a name, how to write letters)
- [Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library](#)
- Different government agencies (every agency should have programming/awareness staff who can explain what their agency does)

Organizations

- American Indian Center of Springfield, MO
- Red Cross (e.g., make pillow cases for storm safety items)
- City of Refuge (or another agency that serves the refuge population)
- Missouri River Relief
- Missouri Bar Association
- Historical Society
- Humane Society
- Touch of Hope hygiene kits
- Food pantry

Community

- Local Biker Groups to have a Motorcycle Day at the Library
- Master gardeners
- Community garden
- Farmer's Market
- Community gardens for the library's community fridges
- Art museums (art at the library)
- Art Council (can they help with supplies? Some have funding more for adults than for children)
- Local artists
- Local sports teams
- Local clubs (e.g., bee keepers, astronomy, quilters, Saddle Club)
- Local community centers



- Veterans (e.g., Flag Day)
- Offer free activities during local sporting events (good for the younger siblings of athletes)
- Senior citizens – visit long-term care facilities, senior centers, and/or ask for volunteers from this community; can do trivia/games with this community
- Kansas City Discover Center has a mobile museum
- Zoo programs (e.g., Kansas City Mobile Zoo)
- Some museums and zoos will give passes to give away at the library

Businesses

- Yoga instructors
- Food trucks (Kona Ice, Tom's Coffee)
- Soap store (for donations)
- Game stores (for tabletop games)
- Music stores
- Local coffee shop (library pays the wifi and then does story time at the coffee shop once a week)
- Blacksmith
- Cat Café in the Library (partner with Humane Society, Second Chance or other local adaption or foster parent groups; great for patrons and to provide socialization activities for the cats; create cat art (put catnip in a Ziploc bag with paint and a piece of paper); use the art to promote adoption of that cat
 - Invite your local animal shelter to have some of their adoptable pets participate. For example, invite some adoptable cats to the library for this event. Lay out some catnip on top of plastic bags with paper and dots of paint and have the cats roll around. Display the cats' paintings along with their picture and how patrons can adopt them.
- Local businesses will donate gift cards and coupons or involve them in a community-wide scavenger hunt
- Moon Marble Company for resources, giveaways



2. *School Outreach* – How do you approach outreach to schools?

Teachers and School Professionals

- Schedule a partnership luncheon between school admin and public librarians in the spring to promote summer library programming
- Offer to talk about summer library programming during a teacher PD day in the spring
- Art Teachers
- I reach out to the principals of each school. I let them know my idea and when I would want to do it.
- Call the school librarian
- Partner with Parents as Teachers
- Free teacher library cards
- Book stacks – collect books for teachers on particular topics
- Connect with them in lots of different ways (school clubs, alternative schools, communicating with librarians, title 1 reading teachers, home school groups)
- In April before school is out, we invite school librarians to a luncheon at the library and share all the plans for summer. A local caterer sponsors and we have door prizes.



Students

- Take a presenter to local schools to promote SLP
- Go to elementary schools, early childhood centers, local preschools to read to them and the promote the summer library program
- Have monthly story times with preschools
- School visits during their morning assemblies
- School library visits for middle school
- School visits in April and May; presentations to different schools
- Summer Reading at the elementary school
- Head Start story time
- In person during assemblies and video clips that can be shown multiple times in classes
- Summer School educational presenters
- Visiting preschools with story time
- Summer library promotional visits

Programming with Schools

- Create a teen advisory board club
- Head Start – to get library card information; once the parent fills it out, they can turn the form in to the school

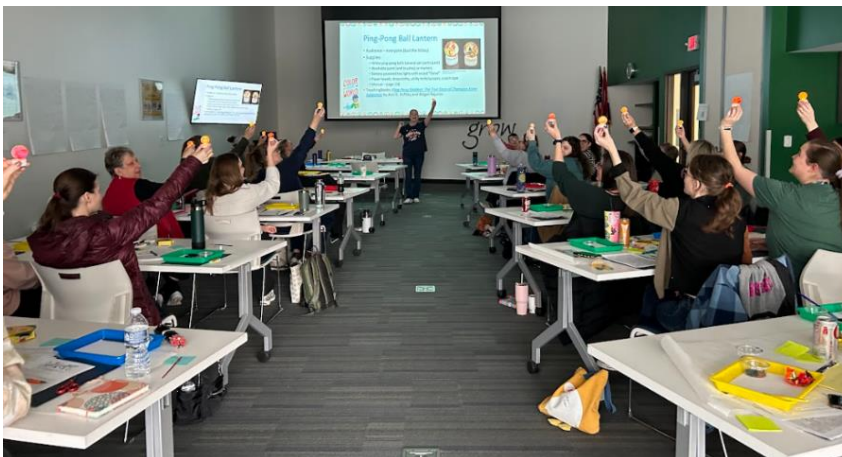
- Promote a bookmark competition for SLP; each branch got to choose three winners (one child, one teen, one adult)
- STEM/STEAM kits
- Junior High Jeopardy
- Scavenger hunts in the library
- Field trip to the library
- Book mark competition for summer reading
- Fall fest with schools
- Family dinners with local schools
- After school crafting and book promotion

Marketing Strategies with Schools

- Give Summer Library Program calendars to the school districts to distribute to students
- See if your school uses PeachJar – you can apply for a free flyer distribution every 28 days
- Bookmarks to all schools
- For county schools that don't have a physical library building nearby, we promote the books by snail mail program for summer reading
- Back to School bash

3. *Marketing Strategies* – What are your most effective strategies for attracting patrons to the reading portion of your Summer Library Program (SLP)?

- Creating and posting related reading lists for the theme
 - Remember, TeachingBooks has already created links to the [CSLP booklists](#).
- Flyers at local businesses
- Vouchers for prizes from local businesses
- Prizes/incentives throughout the summer
- Word of mouth and the librarians/patrons sharing
- Radio stations
- Newspapers
- Community centers
- Facebook
- Facebook on city pages
- programs
- Free books!
- Book clubs



4. *Ongoing Involvement* – How do you maintain interest so patrons COMPLETE the reading portion of your SLP?

- Four-hour lock-in event after hours; set up tents; turn lights down/off; kids said after the event that they wanted more reading time
- Have performers throughout the summer (every other week)
- New for SLP 2025 – we are having events every other week; during non-event weeks, we will have art themed programs that rotate among the branches
- Mid-summer email check reminder
- Beanstack
- Host a Summer Kick-Off Event with businesses, organizations, government agencies (like your Parks and Rec department) in a community event
- Prizes in increments – candy, small prizes, a book at the end for finishing
- Great prizes!
- Provide chances to enter into the grand prizes, such as tickets to the local waterpark or amphitheater



5. *Registrations Vs. Completions* – For the reading portion of your SLP, do you track registrations, completions, or both?

Remember that the Summer Library Program survey requested by the Missouri State Library at the end of the programming cycle with request both the number of registrations and the number of completions.

- Most respondents indicated that they track both registrations and completions of the reading portion of their library programming, although a few indicated that they record just those who registered to participate (but not completed) or just those who completed (but not registered).

- We track both; that way I can get a percentage of completions and more easily compared to previous years
- Our SLP prizes are tiered; we track registrations, how many complete at each prize level, and the final completion

6. Tracking Involvement – What ways do you give your patrons to track their progress? Do you use an online or paper reading tracker? Bing Card? Passport?

Most respondents seem to utilize both paper and electronic tracking, with the most common electronic tracking tool being Beanstack. Additional responses below:

- We use a game sheet with spots to encourage reading and other spots for activities, like “read a certain genre.” Our adults love it!
- Beanstack (online), paper gameboards, passport gameboard
- Paper tracking with activities calendar on back; ultimately recorded on Beanstack
- We use Beanstack to track involvement. Patrons and employees can log progress. We ask every time they come in if they’ve logged their progress.
- Usually one pager (birth – 5, 5-12, 12-teen, adult)
- Track reading with a rainbow – different ages get a different color to add to the rainbow
- We use paper reading logs. For our kiddos, we use minute based tracking, for teens it’s four books each month, and for adults, it’s eight books for the summer (four in June and four in July).
- We used to use Beanstack but for next summer, we’re moving back to a paper game board
- Include the check-in locations on the patron’s trackers

7. Best Budget Idea – What’s a great program that you’ve offered on a shoestring budget?



- Community Touch-a-Truck (basically free unless you add in food or drink vendor)
- Leprechaun traps
- Toilet paper tube “scarecrow” allowed kids to be creative with all craft supplies. Most did not look like a scarecrow but their own creature.
- Anything using cardboard and duct tape
- Board games for all! Just set it up for families to try out different games.
- International mud day
- [The Boy who Loved Maps](#) by Kari Allen and G. Brian Karas (outside activity) – hid painted rocks outside and



provide a map to find them; kids could paint their own rocks and hide them in town, then bring a map they created to the library where we made copies to share

- [Bad Art Night](#)
- Open ended art projects that use things your library already has like newspaper, boxes, magazines, etc.
- Air dry clay -only need clay, hands, water, and a basic plastic knife
- Get your local art guild to come to do a program – most will do them for free.

8. Patron Participation Pivot - How do you handle events when you get more people than expected? Or when you get none at all?

None to Few

- I often don't have patrons coming to my teen programs; they're the hardest to get teens to. I just keep promoting my programs to teens at the schools and try to create engagement in my teen area through passive activities.
- For no shows, I try to use the craft activity with another program
- If none at all, as long as its not too complicated, put everything in a bag and use as a take & make; include basic instructions

More than Expected

- Always have a back-up passive program
- If we have too many people, we try to move to a bigger space if we can and have siblings share crafts



9. Themed Weeks – Have you offered a new theme for each week of SLP? If so, what were your challenges? Successes?

- Friday fun celebration (revolves around big project)
- Camps each week
- Genre based theme
- Each branch takes a theme based on the big theme
- Combined scavenger hunt (each branch has codes)
- Countries for adventure theme
- Decades – adventures through time (lean into different clothing, music, hobbies, by decade)
- Could create a road map to follow with a new theme each week, maybe use a punch card to track progress or a passport with different stamps for different accomplishments

- I haven't done this yet, but there is a week in June (13-19) I'm doing an air-dry clay kid's club program. You could also do a take and make program with instructions on a cool mini-structure.
- Last year, we did a different theme each week. I think the most difficult part was just keeping up with the different activities, programs, and take & makes for each one. But it was very fun doing all the different themed weeks because we're not limited on décor for sure.



10. Take and Make Kit Ideas – What are take and make ideas that could be used for this theme or throughout the year?

- What does art mean to you? Patrons will get to take a piece of paper that has ideas on it to get started. They can paint on it, draw, cut it and weave, origami, etc. When they bring it back, they'll fill out a placard with their first name and the name of their piece. They will sit in my display case all summer.
- Take and make clay sculpture instructions, clay, and something to stabilize their structure, like a popsicle stick.
- Take and make glue stick batik – needs cloth handkerchief, stencil, purple glue stick, acrylic or tempura paint. Use glue stick through stencil; paint whole cloth, let it dry, then wash to remove the glue.
- We did a “create your own puzzle” kit a few years ago that was really popular. You just need two supplies – a blank puzzle and a small box of colored pencils, water colors, or crayons.



- Included QR code with videos of directions for crafts and activities (e.g., friendship bracelets)
- Plastic lid sun catchers
- CD hover craft
- Take puzzle pieces and spray paint them different colors – make a rainbow by gluing pieces together. Glue a pin on the back with a charm and pin on shirt
- Take and make kits are a good resource when you know you're going to be gone during summer library time. Staff can have kits ready to hand when kids come in.
- Rainbow clouds using popsicle sticks
- Playdough ice cream kits
- Crayon melt art kits (adult required)
- Mini scrapbook (using magazines)
- DIY bookmarks (using sequins, stickers, etc.)

11. *Stress* – How do you keep your stress levels down during SLP?

- Ask for help! Don't take on too much; ask coworkers to help ease the load.
- Prepare, prepare, prepare!
- Always have a backup plan in your back pocket that's quick to throw out if needed.
- Notebook by my bed for when I wake up with ideas.
- Collaborate with coworkers
- The stash of chocolate in my office

12. *Free for All* – What other questions/concerns/ideas not already addressed would you like to share?

Painting Activities

- Melted crayon art on canvas (use a hairdryer to melt the crayon shavings)
- Cubism/painting in pixels
- Thrift store art
- Use air dry clay to create a sculpture, then paint after it dries
- Yarn painting – draw with glue and then fill in with yarn
- Make a color changing chameleon out of paper plates (use with book [A Color of His Own](#) by Leo Lionni)
- Michelangelo event (painting under a table)
- For the littles, put paper and paint in a Ziploc bag and then them draw with their finger



- Thumbprint art made into ladybugs

Drawing Activities

- Do the “exquisite corpse” game (collaborative drawing)

Crafting Activities

- Have a “my dress up darling” event, based on the manga by the same name; create paper dolls, then vote on the best
- Perler beads
- Make an airplane (patrons take them home, or you can hang them up around the circulation desk)
- Teen design challenge – collect random supplies and give them a prompt (e.g., build a boat that floats; build a turkey hideout)
- Create a soundsuit
- Legos in lots of colors
- Make footprint on magnetic sheets that you can cut

Other Ideas

- Use CreativeBug if your library has a subscription.
- Art Relay Race
- Teens can create some short indie films, then host a program to show them
- Culture celebration (highlight festivals, food, music, dance from different cultures)
- Give 1-5 story prompts to start a story
- Host a murder mystery event
- Culinary arts events
- Dye your own yard with flavored drink mix or Easter egg dye
- Each week, promote a different color for patrons to wear to events
- Top five summer reading songs for the theme



This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of notebook paper. The lines are thin and light blue, set against a plain white background. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

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Missouri Secretary of State
State Library



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Missouri Secretary of State